

# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes**  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Attendees :** Bernard Hunter, Fr Michael Copps, Lorna Spears, Donna Patros, Damian Atkinson, Matthew Ives, Martin Sharkey, Peter Robson  
Also present: Suzie Wright.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cynthia Oji, Robin Shearmur.

Patricia Jolly has resigned from the PPC and the Becket Centre, needing in the short term to focus on other matters. She hopes still to be active in the parish, however. The PPC expressed their sadness at her departure and their profound thanks for her contribution, especially for the effort she and Peter and Michelle put into the reopening of the Henrietta Suite.

Fr Michael started the meeting with a reading of next weekend's Gospel passage.

## **Minutes**

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.  
There were no matters arising.

## **Matters arising**

Church Sound System – Bernard apologised that there was no action yet.

The headset microphone has gone missing.

Ushers' guidance document – 8:30am and 10am Sunday teams have provided feedback. 10am comments accepted as they were clear omissions e.g. when to inform the Children's Liturgy team to prepare to rejoin mass. 8:30 comments fed back to Bernadette as there is quite a lot of it. Awaiting H&S comments

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Henrietta Suite**

Some minor snagging issues remain; the new counter tops are due in this week.

It is taking too long, but we are holding funds back.

There may be an issue with noise in the room; if so, panels, curtains and other measures would help but the PPC agreed that we should not act now, but review the situation once we are clearer in 12 months.

### **Becket Centre Committee**

The need for a replacement for Patricia, and the support of 1 or 2 more members to cover the scope of what can be achieved were recognised as being urgent.

### **Attracting more volunteers**

The chronic need for more volunteers and leaders was discussed.

Agreed we need to make clear what the needs are, and the time commitments required, and advertise these effectively.

Bernard to prep some requirements for various roles. Suzie to prep a volunteers' flyer

## **UPDATES**

### **Regular meetings for young people**

Bernard is working with Olivia to gauge support among this year's confirmands for their continuing to meet after the confirmation programme ends.

Martin and others would assist. Initial funding for pizzas etc was approved.

### **Lift**

Bernard explained that a survey is underway which, among other things, asks regular users to report the number of people they expect would benefit from our having a lift installed. The cost of a domestic lift appears to be about £20,000.

### **Screens in church**

...for church for hymns, responses and other messages.

There was some discussion about the pros and cons, but the PPC agreed that a trial should take place (7 in favour, 1 against). BH arranging to borrow some of TCHS screens for 2-4 weeks. We would pilot with the 11:30am mass, and possibly the 10am. A complete system might cost £20,000 or more.

### **Support for St Antony's and Trinity**

Through Damian, St Antony's have asked for support in equalities training for their staff. Despite this not being associated as before with support for young people with mental health problems, or to help address mysogeny, the request (for £1,200) was approved by the PPC (7 in favour, 1 against) as a gesture of general support for the school. Damian will meet the Head of Trinity as soon as he is available.

### **Church sound system**

The difficulty of achieving uniform clarity in such a building and with so many different voices was acknowledged. Especially when heating fans are operating. PPC considers that, apart from constant attention to reader training, no further action is required now. Providing guidance to those speaking at funerals will be considered (Bernard, Suzie).

### **Usher guidance document**

Suzie reported that this had changed little since the version reviewed by the PPC.

She was asked to circulate the current version to members, who will respond within 2 days with any issues. Subject to that, the document will then be reissued to all ushers.

## **REVIEW OF RECENT EVENTS**

Alpha: Very successful. 17 regular attendees plus 5 organisers each week.

They continue to meet after the end of the course.

Another course, open to a wider target group, is planned for September.

It was noted that the Journey of Faith people also continue to meet after their reception into the Church.

### Lenten lunches

Again very successful, as a parish activity, as an ecumenical initiative, and as a fundraiser (£ to Mary's Meals this year).

The PPC thanked Diana Turpin and Sheelagh Hunter for their work organising Lenten Lunches over many years; they now hand over to Ann Entwistle and Cheryl Grave.

### Lenten services

Damian reported that the Triduum services had gone very smoothly, albeit there were minor matters that we will improve. The main issue over Easter was the traffic/car park congestion when the 10am mass overran; we expect to manage that better in future.

### **Future events**

- outdoor mass Sunday 14 June; Bernard to confirm responsibilities with Rob, Mike, music group to ensure it runs smoothly
- Fr Brian's birthday celebration is earmarked for an afternoon tea on Saturday 25 July; Bernard to confirm responsibilities with CWL to ensure it runs smoothly
- AGM is on a Wednesday evening in July; date to be confirmed (Bernard/Suzie)

### **AoB**

- There was some support for the replacement of the crosses at the top of each of the three gables of the church. Bernard to explore options with Rob.
- Can the signage outside be made any clearer? Planning permission may be involved. Bernard to explore options with Suzie.

Damian closed the meeting with a prayer.

### **Next Meeting**

This will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm